

**City of Kingston Arts Commission
Meeting - Thursday, March 11, 2016 – 4:30 p.m.
City Hall**

MINUTES

Attendance

Commission members in attendance were: Anne Bailey, Ruth Ann Devitt-Frank, Richard Frumess, Lara Giordano, Susie Linn, Linda Marston-Reid, Ward Mintz and Pablo Shine.

Guest: Keiko Sono

Micah Blumenthal was unable to attend.

Call to Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

February Minutes

Linda made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes, Susie seconded, and all agreed.

Commission Outreach to Businesses and Nonprofit Organization

A discussion of an outreach idea that Ward raised at a previous meeting continued. All agreed that the Commission members should contact local organizations to: (a) introduce themselves (b) explain what the Commission's purpose is (c) learn what the Commission can do for a given organization.

The following organizations and "field-trip" assignments were discussed:

Kottler Gallery: Micah	Maritime Museum
Ev Mann/Center for Creative Education:	Trolley Museum
Lara	Rehr Center
Kingston Library: Susie, Ward	Firemans Museum
Arts Society of Kingston: Anne and Ruth	Ulster Tourism
Ann	Everette Hodge Center
O+	Chamber of Commerce
Rail Trail	Shirt Factory
Hospital	Jeremy Ellenbogen
Senate House	Boys & Girls Club
Friends of Historic Kingston	

Ward suggested that we develop a list of talking points/questions and an information packet. Initial talking points/questions include:

- An explanation of the KAC mission and who the Commission members are
- What are your major activities and what would you like to do that your organization does not do now?
- What do you contribute culturally to the community?
- What is your perception of the community/how do you think it is changing?
- What impact might these changes have on your organization?
- Do you collaborate with other non-profits? If so, what kinds of projects are you working on? If not, is there a reason? Any future projects planned?
- What is your vision for what you would like to see in Kingston in the future?

Ward subsequently add these two questions to the list:

- Do you think that KAC might be able to help your organization in any way?
- Would it benefit your organization to have a community-wide calendar of cultural and fund-raising events?

Initial suggested pieces to include in packets:

- Mission Statement
- List of Commission Members with contact info

Ulster County Chamber of Commerce

Anne mentioned that the Chamber's annual nonprofit membership rate is \$350, which is too high for most of Kingston's arts-related nonprofit groups. All agreed that we should write to request that the rate be reduced. It was not confirmed who will draft the letter.

Art Walk

Linda reported that she conducted a well-received electronic survey to gauge interest among Kingston artists in an annual Art Walk/Studio Tour, which will premiere on October 1, 2016. Artists requiring exhibition space will be paired with businesses, owners of empty storefront locations, and other spaces along the Walk route. Anne offered to speak with the Ten Broeck arts businesses about their ability/willingness to lend pop-up spaces. Ruth Ann offered to check on the availability of the UPAC Green Room, which has its own entrance on Broadway.

City of Kingston Arts Coordinator

Anne mentioned the need for the City to hire a paid arts coordinator to pull ideas/groups together, manage specific projects, and serve as a liaison between groups and local government. She suggested that the Commission raise \$25K and ask the City to match the amount.

City-Owned Artwork Survey

Ward noted that it would be useful and wise to conduct a survey of all City-owned artwork and where it is located. This project could be managed/conducted by a college intern and overseen by the Arts Coordinator.

Keiko Sono Presentation

Keiko joined the meeting to request the Commission's input about her idea to establish a pilot children's stop animation media lab in Kingston. The program would link fine and digital arts and serve as a place children can count on to be able to visit anytime. It would have strong social impact and would be especially well suited for children on the Autism spectrum. Feedback was positive, but it was noted that Spark Media has scheduled a workshop for kids at the Kingston Library, and the Women's Studio Workshop has plans to set up a satellite studio in Kingston. The consensus was that it is a worthy concept but other projects and organizations are already filling a similar need in Kingston.

Next Project Brainstorming Session

The second session was scheduled for 4:30 on March 24 at Ward's home.

Next Arts Commission Meeting

The next Arts Commission meeting will take place on **Thursday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m.**

The March meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.